

¶ Two most vnnaturall and bloodie
Murthers:

The one by Maister Cauerley, a Yorkeſhire
Gentleman, practised upon his wife, and com-
mitted vpon his two Children, the
thre and twentie of Aprill

1605.

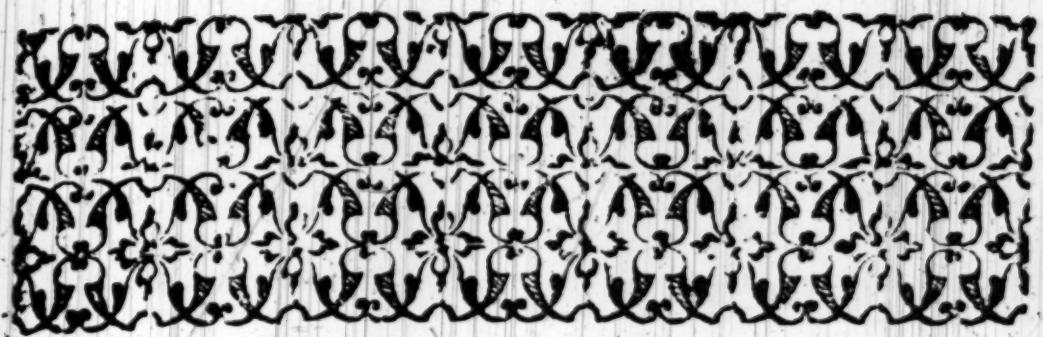
The other, by Mistris Browne, and her ſervant Peter, vpon her husband,
who were examined in Lent last palt at Bury in Suffolke.

1605.



Printed at London by V. S. for Nathanael Butter dwelling in Pailes
churchyard neare Saint Austin's gate. 1605.





Maister Cauerleys vnnaturall and bloudie murther, practised vpon his wife, and committed vpon his children.



There hath happened of late within the Countie of Yorke, not farre from Wakefield, a murther so detestable, that were it not it deserves record for example sake, Humanitie could wish it rather utterly forgot, then any Christian heart shuld tremble with the remembiance of it.

Within this county was bred a gentleman, one M. Cauerly of Cauerly, a man whose parents were such, as left him seven or eight hundred pound a yere, to enrich his hopes, cherish his content, and make him fortunate: His father dying before he had reacht the yeares of privilege, during his nonage, he was Warde to a most noble & worthy gentleman in this land, in all which time his course of life did promise so much good,

that there was a commendable grauity appeared even in his youth, he being of th s hope, vertuous in his life, and worthy by his birth , was sought unto by many gallant Gentlemen , and desired that he would brite his fortune into their families, by matchung himself to one and the chiese of their daughters.

Among which number it happened, being once invited for such a purpose, (a welcome guest) to an antient Gentleman of cheare note in his Country , (hee came) where in short time was such an interchangeable affection, shot in by two paire of eyes, to one paire of heartes, that this Gentlemans best beloued daughter, was by priuate assurance made Maister Cauerley's best beloued wife : nor could it bee kept so close betwene the paire of louers, (for lone will discouer it selfe in looking looks.) But it came to the fathers knowledge, who with a natural joy, was contented with the contract; yet in regard Maister Cauerley's yeres could not dilcha ge the charge his honourable gardian had ouer him : the father thought it meete , (though the louers could haue wished it otherwaies,) to lengthen their desired haste, till time should finish a fit howre to solemnize their happy wedlocke . Maister Cauerley hauing spent some time there in decent recreation, much abroad , and more at home with his new Miss Tresse; at last he bethought himselfe, that his long stay made him long looked for at London: And hating published his intended departure, the father thought it convenient, though the vertuous Gentlewoman danced a Lath to depart vpon his contracted lips. Maister Cauerley came to London: , and whether concealing his late contract from his honorable gardian, or forgetting his priuate & publicke bowes, or both I know not, but Time, mother of alterations, had not sannied ouer many daies, but hee had made a new bargaine, knit a newe mar-

marriage knot, and was husband by all matrimoniall
rites, to a curteous Gentlewoman, and neare by mar-
riage to that honourable Personage to whom he was
ward.

Mumor with his thousand tonges and ten thou-
sand fete, was not long in trauel before hee had de-
livered this distasted message to his first Mistresse
cares, who looking for a more lourly commenda-
tions, and having heard but part of that, such as
truely it was, the winde of her sighes had so raised vp
the tide of her teares, that shee clipped the report ere
it could bee tolde out, into many peeces. And as she
would still faine haue asked this question, (Is it so in-
deede) shee was faine to make vp her distracted silla-
bles with the letters of her eyes. This Gentlewoman,
Maister Cauerleys wife, (if bowes may make a
wife) tooke with an inward consideration, so to heart
this vnjust w:ong, tha: excreasing her bowres onely
in continual sorrow, shre brought her selfe to a con-
sumption; whs so plaide the insulting tyrant ouer
her unblemished beautie, that the ciuill contention
dwelt in her face of white and redde, was turned to
a death-like valen:ce, and all her artires wherein
the spirite of life mixed with blood doth ranne, like
giude subiects in the Empire of her bodie, greedis
of inuocation, took such vngentle parte with this
foraigne usurper, that where health beiere was her
peaceable loueraigne, now distasted sicknes and feble
weaknesse were her vntunely Conquerors. yet vader
this poake of griece, whc so paciently indured that,
thoagh he had great reason a fouda:ion whereon he
mught hym build arguments to haue curst his pro-
ceedings. And whre others woulde haue contra-
dicted him both of reproach and reproose agaynt
him, shre ouerly married these letters together: I

intreat of God to grant both prosperous health and fruitfull wealth to hym and his, though I am sick for his sake.

But to Maister Cauerley, who having finished this wrong to this Gentlewoman, and begun too much disresse to her that he married, (as too lone appeared:) for though the former conquerd by the gentilnesse of her nature, forgaue his fault; yet reuenge being alwaies in Godshand, thus it fel.

This Gentleman had not liued many months with his wife, but he was so altered in disposition from that which he was, and so shott from the perfection which he had, as a body dying is of a life florishing: and where before his thoughts onely studiéd the relish of vertue, and her effects, his actions did now altogether practise the vnprouitable taste of vices, and her fruities. For though he were a man of so good reuenerie as before, hee continued his expence in such exceeding riot, that he was forced to mortgage his lands, run in great debts, entangle his friends by being bound for him, and in shart time so weakened his estate, that having not wherewithal to carry that port which before he did, he grew into a discontent, which so swaid in him, hee would sit sullenly, walke melancholy, bethinking continually, and with steddy lookes naild to the ground, seeme astonisht, that when his wife would come to beseeche the cause of his sadness, and intreate to be a willing partner in his sorrow: for,

*Consortium rerum omnium inter nos
Facit amicitia.*

Hee would eyther sitt still without giving her an answer, or rising uppe, depart from her with these wordes; A plague on thee, thou art the cause of my sadness. The Gentlewoman, whiche without question

if this report is true of, never so much as in thought offended him, and having been sundry times cursed without cause, once came to him, and making his tears parles with her words, she thus intreated him: sir, master Cauerley, I beseech you by the mutuall league of loue which should be betwixt vs, by the bowes we made together, both before, and at our marriage, and by that God that registers our thoughts, tell me what I haue done, the remembrance of which should afflict you, or what I may do that might content you: as you desire the thre louely boyes you haue beene father unto, should grow vp and make your name liue in your country, acquaint me with your grieses, and what a wife can shew to manifest her loue to her husband, shal be perfected in me. Master Cauerley bring himselfe with a stedy eie vpon her, at least delivered this: I now want money, and thou must help me.

O Master Cauerley, (quoth she) though God and your selfe know I am no cause of your want, yet what I haue to supply you, either in iewels or rings, I pray you take, and I beseech you, as you are a Gentleman, and by the loue you shold haue to your children, althoough you care not for me, looke back a little into your estate, and restraine this great stoud of your expence before your house be utterly ouerthowne. You know sir, (quoth she) your land is morgaged already, your selfe otherwise greatly in debt, some friends of yours that are bound for you like to be vndone. But as she would haue gone forward, he cut her off with these wordes: Basse strumpet (whom though I married I never loued) shall my pleasure be confined by your will? if you and your bastards be in want, either beg, or retire to your friends, my humor shal haue the auntient scope. Thy rings and iewels I wil sel, and as voluntarie spend them, as when I was in the best of my estate: the god

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Gentlewomanis eyes being drawne full of water with these wordes, made him no other replie but this: Sir your will be done. But hee lied on in this vchenement of bloud. I protest by heauen I will euer hereafter lathe thee, and never I c with thee, til thou give thy consent thy dowrie shall be tolde, to maintaine my pleasure, and leaue thy selfe and children destitute of maine tenance. Sir (answered she) in al this I will be a wise, what in all this thy law will allow me to doe, you shall command. Woe thou doest it (quoth he,) for the longer then I am full of money shalt thou pertake from me a taste of kindnesse.

Mistresse Caucley going forward with this intent to sell away her dowrie, was sent for vp to London by that honorable friend whose noce she was, and whose sward he has borne, who having heard of her husbands prodigall course, at her comming vp, began to question her about her estate, and whether he bore himselfe as a husband shoule do in familiar loue to her. The Gentlewoman though she knew how despitate his estate was, and her tongue could too well haue tolde his unkindnesse, she answered both thus: for my husbands estate, I make no doubt but it is in the same height his fath'r left it to him: but for our loue one to another, I am assured, and I prayse God for it, wee live like Abraham and Sarah, he louing to me, I obedient to him.

Howsoever (answered this honourable friend) your wordes are an ornament a good wife shoule haue, and you seeke to shadow the blemishes his actions haue call upon his life, let this suffice you, I know of his prodigal course, I know how his land is all, or the most part of it mortgaged, himselfe in debt to manie: yet censuring these infirmities to proderde of no other cause, but from the rash heate of youth, which will in time,

no doubt be supprest by experiance : and soz that I belieue your words be true , and am glad to heare of his kindnes toward you, I will take such order for him, as he shall continue still master Cauerley, in the same de-
gree, or better than ere his ancestors were in Dorke-
shire: and at your returne to certifie him withall, that he hasten vp to Court : noz let the feare of his Credi-
tors abridge his comming vp , for I will protect him,
both from them , and also prouide some place in Court
for him , wherein he shall finde I am his honourable
kinsman.

The good gentlewoman was so strucke with ioy at this comfortable promise , that she was scarce able to speake out her dutifull thanks. And thinking her hus-
band would be satisfied with this preferment , hoping
that kindnes would be contracted again betwixt them,
and assuring her selfe there would be now no neede to
make sale of her dowrie (for that was also a part of her
busines) hauing taken leaue of her honourable kins-
man, shs returned toward Cauerley.

During this her absence, master Cauerley maintai-
ned his accustomed habite, and indeede grew from bad
to worse: for mischiefe is of that nature, that it can not
stand , but by Strengthening of one euill with an o-
ther , and so multiply in it selfe vntil it come vnto the
highest, and then falleth with his owne weight . So
Master Cauerley being giuen to excesse rioting, as di-
ting, drinking, renelling, and it is thought, &c. fed one
euill with another, and in such continuall we , that his
body was not in temper without the exercise of sinne:
for who knowes not , *sine Cerere & Baccho friget Venus?*
so without money pleasure wil hardly be maintained.

And this Gentleman hauing now made wracke of
his estate, and finding himselfe not able to maintaine
his pleasure, when his desire was, as great as before,

(for pleasure being once delightfull vnto the memorie, is as hard to be resisted as madnesse) first he fel into a hatred with his wife, and in this her absence to such a loathing of his children, that in what company soever hee had happened, he could not containe his rage, but would openly proclaime his wife was a strumpet, his children were bastards. And although theyr marriage was made by honourable personages, her selfe nobly descended, from the first houre hee embraced her, to that very minute hee didde loathe her: Some would mildly perswade hym from this phrensie, others would courteously reprove him, saying, It was not fitte: And all, whose modestie thought it unmeet to meddle betwixt man and wife, knowing her vertuous life, didde bitterly condemne him.

But hee continued this publication in all places where he came, and at one among the number, there happened a Gentleman to be, who hauing knowne the discretenesse of his wife from her very cradle, and hearing him so wilde in his abuses, prepared himselfe confidently to correct him, and hauing begunne his speach of chastisement, the other not induring to be detected: both being soone inflamed, fel to quarrelous tearmes, and in such heate, that Maister Cauerley did not spare to say, That hee might wel be his wifes friend for aught that hee knew, nay there was great presumption for it, since he so easily should bee stirred vp in his wifes excuse. The Gentleman not enduring to heare her reputation, but especially his owne to be touched, so unanswered Maister Cauerley, and agayne Maister Cauerley him, that they both agreed to purge themselues in the field, both mette, and after some thrustes chaunged betweene them, Maister Cauerley was hurt, yet would he not give ouer, so that after he became at the Gentlemans mercie, but hee

he of that humane condicione not to desire his life, nor so much blood as was, had he not beene vrged, bade him rise, and left him with these wordes, Maister Cauerley, you are a Gentleman of an antient house, there hath beene much good expected from you, deceyue not mens hopes, you haue a vertuous wife, bee kynde vnto her, I forget my w;ong, and continue your friend.

But Maister Cauerley vnsatisfied with this, his hart flew to his mouth as it would haue leapt out after him for reuenge, yet knowing he could get little by following him, but hurts, such as he had already, p;repared to turne his w;ath another way. Then looking vpon his wounds, and seeing them blæde, said to himselfe strumpet, thou art the cause that I blæde now, but I wil be the cause that thou shalt bleed heereafter. So taking his horse, rode presently home, where before his wounds were thzoughly cured, his wife was come from London, and the first greeting was giuen her by her husband, was, what hast thou brought the money? Is the land sold? He answered, Sir I hope I haue made a iourney shall redound both to your comfort and mine: so acquainting him with the precedencie, which was his promised p;referment by her kinsman, and ersetting a louing acceptance, the first thanks he gave her was a spurn. And looking vpon her as if his eies would haue shot fire into her face: haue you bin at London to make your complaint of me? you damnable strumpet, quoth hee, that the greatnesse of your friends might ouer-sway th: weakenesse of my estate? and I that haue lived in that ranke of will which I haue doone, that freedom of pleasure should forsake it now, shal I being a Cauerley of Cauerley stope my thoughts so low to attend on the countenance of your aliace, to order my life by their direction, and neither doe nor vndoe any

thing but what they list, which if I refuse to doe, your complaints haue so wrought with them, and you haue so possessed them of my estate, they will enforce me so sothe for your good, and the good of my children: was this your tricke to saue your dowrie the which I sware you shuld sell? Was this your going to London?

The good Gentlewoman being almost blowne to death with this vchemencie of his wrath, fell at his feete, and desired him to heare her, when (poore soule) she was so full of griefe, she had not the power to speak, yet having easid the way with a few of sorowes drops, shee begann to please this true excuse to him, (that like one had lost all his senses) had scarce patience to heare. Sir (said she) God knowes the words I speake haue no fashion of untruth, my friends are fully possessed your land is mortgaged, they know to whom, & for what, but not by me I beseech you beleue, and for anie difference betwixt your selfe and me, which I doubt would offend more, then the mortgaging of your land, I protest yet ther is no occasion of suspect. If you think I haue published any thing to him with desire to keepe the sale of my dowrie from you, either for mine owne good, or my childrens, though it fits I should haue a motherly care of them (you being my husband) passe it away how you please, spend it how you will, so I may enjoy but welcome looks, and kinde words from you: and when all which you call yours, is gone, ere you or yours shall want, I wil worke for your maintenance, neither of which extremities sir neede, if you please, if you will but accept preferment in Englands Court, being offred you *gratis*, which many men would purchase with cost, and cannot compasse it.

At which words, though thus mildly utred, & on her humble knes, he was so without cause enraged, that

had

had not one of his men come vp in the instant, and told him there was a Gentleman from one of the Uniuersities staid to speake with him, he had offered her present violence.

Maister Cauerley went downe to talke with this Gentleman, leauing his wife stufed with greese vp to the eye-lids: and shee good soule hauing eased her heart with a long fetcht sigh or two, laid her downe vpon her bed, where in her carefull slumbers we will leau her, and attend the conference betweene Maister Cauerley and this Gentleman.

Maister Cauerley had a second brother, who at this present was of good standing in the Uniuersitie, who vpon some extreamitie Maister Cauerley was in, soz so he wold pleade himselfe to be to his friends, when he wold haue them bound for him, had passed his bond with his brother for a thousand pound: this bond was by Maister Cauerley forfated: and this young Gentleman being reputed of staid government, the execution was serued vpon him, and hee at this instant prisoner for his brothers debt.

About this businesse came this Gentleman to Maister Cauerley, who being master of the Colledge wher in his brother had his instruction: and hauing euer noted his forward wil to the exercise of vertue, in pitty of his estate, being moued thereunto by the young student, came purposely thither, who without long circumstance, told Maister Cauerley, that the cause of his comming, was to stir vp his conscience to haue regard of his brother, for he heard he was carelesse, and indeed dealt so sharply and forcibly, in laying open to him what scandall the world would throw vpon him, what iudgement by God should fal vpon him, for suffering his brother to spend the glory of his youth, which is the time young men of hope shoulde seeke for preferment.

in prison by his meanes , and did so harrow vp his soule with his invincible arguments , that in that minute he made him looke backe into the error of his life, whiche scarce euer in his life hee had done before this instant.

The Gentleman hauing spoke his minde asketh him what he meant to doe with his brother , for hee now waited his answer : Maister Cauerley made him this milde reply; sir I thanke you, both for your paines and good instructions to me in my brotheres behalfe , and I must confess I haue done him much w:ong: so calling for a cup of beere, dranke to him, and bade him welcom: now sir, quoth Maister Cauerley , if you please but to walke downe and see the grounds about my house, one of my men shal goe along with you , at your returne I wil giue so sufficient answer , that my brother by you shal be satisfied, and he a prisoner but few howres The Gentleman thanked him, and told him in performing that naturall office, he shold both gloriifie God, satisfie the world, and he himselfe account his paines profitable.

This stranger is gone to walke with one of Maister Cauerleys men to ouer-view his ground, and Maister Cauerley retires himselfe into a gallery , where being alone, he presently fell into a deepe consideration of his state, how his prodigall course of life, had wronged his brother , abused his wife , and vndone his children. Then was presented before the eyes of his imagination, the wealth his father left him, and the misery hee should leaue his children in : Then he saw what an unnaturall part it was , his brother to lie in prison for his debt, and he not able to deliuer him : Then he saw that his wife being nobly descended , vntill her owne friends tooke pitty vpon her , shold with his children be driven to beg remozce of the world , whiche is composed

posed all of flint: Then sawe hee the extirpation of his family, the ruine of his antient house, which hundreds of yeaeres together had bin Gentlemen of the best reputation in Yorkshire, and every one of these out of their severall obiects, did create a severall distraction in him: sometimes he would teare his haire, by and by the teares would flush into his eyes, strait breaKE out into this exclamation: O, I am the most wretched man that ever mother receiued the seede of, O would I had baene slaine in my wombe, and that my mother hadde baene my sepulchre: I haue begot my chilren to eate their bread in bitternesse, made a wife to be nothing but lamentation, and a brother to die in care. And as hee was thus tormented in the remembraunce of his owne folly, his eldest son being a childe of soure yeaeres aide, came into the gallery, to scourge his toppe, and seeing his father stand in a study, looked prettily vppe to him saying, Howe doe you father? which louely looke, and gentle question of the childe rayled againe the remembraunce of the distresse that hee should leaue him in. And as the sea, beeing hurled into hideous billowes, by the fury of the winde, hideth both heauen and earth from the eye of man: So he being overwhelmed by the violence of his passion, all naturall loue was forgot in his remembraunce, caught his childe vp by the necke, and striking at him with his dagger, the childe lent him such a looke, would haue driven a hand seauen yeaeres prentice vnto wurther to an ague: (yet he) O would it had never beeene done, it might never haue beeene told, though his arme seemd twice to remember him of the monstrosenes of the fact, he strok the louely infant into the head, & holding the bleeding childe at his armes length, that the blood might nek sprinkle his cloths, which had staind his harts honor, hee carried it into anere Chamber, where his wife

lay

lay asleepe vpon a bed, and the maid was dressing an other childe by the fire: (heer it is to be noted, his thunde was at narsle abroade) but the woman seeing him come in in that cruell sorte, his childe in one hand, his reeking dagger in the other, the childe bleeding, hee staring, started from the fire, and with the childe in her armes, cried out; but he letting go the boy he had wounded, caught violently the other out of her armes, and this chamber doore being at the top of a high paire of staires carried her seyr by main strength, and threw the poore woman downe to the bottome, who in tender pity by presidents of the one, would haue preserued the other: the childe that was wounded, was all this while crying in the chamber, and with his woful noise, waked as wofull a mother, who seeing one childe bleeding, the other lie on the ground, (for he had laid the younger downe, (while he strove to throw the maid downe staires) she caught vp the youngest, and going to take the elder which was going toward the doore; her husband comming backe, met her, and came to struggle with her for the childe which shē sought to preserue with words, feares, and all what a mother could do from so tragicall an end; and when he saw he could not get it from her, he most remorkelesse stabb'd at it some thre or foure times, all which shē saued the childe from, by taking it on her selfe; and having a paire of whale-bone bodys on, it pleased God his dagger so glanced on them, that she had yet but one wound in the shoulder: but hee more crewell by this resistance, caught fast holde vpon the childe, and in the mothers armes stabb'd it to the heart: and after giuing his wife two or thre mortall wounds, shē fel backward, and the child dead at her fete. The maid that was throwne downe the staires by hym, with the greatnesse of the fall, the staires being high, lay for dead at the bottome:

the

the noise of this had brought the servants, no knowing of that which was more tyrannous, to h. lp. the maide, thinking he had fell by mischance, and did their best to comfort her beneath, while the father and the mother were straining, one to preserue the infant, the other to kill it. The childe which was first wounded, sought to get to the doore, and having recovered the top of the staires, (by expence of blood and the greatness of the wound) having no body to comfort it fell also downe staires, that the armes of the servants helping the maide at the staire foot, were faine to let her goe to receive him. Some caught up the dead infant, some helped at the maide, all amazed at this tragicke alteration, knewe not what to thinke, yet one of the men more hardie then the rest, ranne up and met his maister in the chamber, where he saw his M. Strelle lie on the ground, and her dead childe at her teete, and saying to him; Oh sir, what haue you done? That which I repented not knauie answered hee: and having still his dagger in his hand, came to stab a thim: But the fellow seeking to save himselfe, as also to attack his Maister, they both fell to strypling. Maister Cauerley which was knowne before a man of weake constitution, was in the strife too hard for the fellowe, who was reputed of a very able body: and in the wrestling together, did so teare him with the towells of his spurres, both on the face and legges, that there he left him, not being able to followe him. Maister Cauerley went downe staires, and presently tooke toward the stable: by the way hee met the Gentleman who before was walking to viewe his groundes, who wonderinge to see him in such a heale, asked what aye you Sir? he answered no great matter: but sir, I will resellue you within, whcre I haue taken order for my brothers busynesse. So the Gentleman walked in, and M. Cauerley haled to the stable, where standing a C. textus

readie sadled, backt him and led away presently. The gentleman comming in, was enterained with outcries and shrekes, the mother for the children, (for by this time ther was almost recovered.) The menservants at this doleful mishance, and all lamenting a father should bee so unnaturall. The Gentleman doubting that, which was, of Maister Cauerleys escape, left all the house making elegies of sorowe, and betwike himselfe to his pursuit, and hauing soorthwith raised the Towne, and heard which way he rode, followed him with the swiftest haste. Maister Cauerley againe beeing well horsed, spurd as fast as they, not earnest to escape, but thirtie after moze blood: for hauing an infant of halfe a yare old at nurse some twelue mile off, he prickt by his preposterous fate, had a desire to rone out all his owne generation: and onely intending to murther it, was carelesse what became of himselfe: he rode hard for an act of sinne, and they pursued for the execution of iustice. But God that ordreth the life of a Wren, hath then a care of his reasonable creatures. And though Caine was suffered to kill his brother Abel, God bound him not to destroy himself. So for Maister Cauerley, though God permitted the Sunne to blush at his unnaturall acts, yet he suffered him not escape without his revenge: for when he was at the townes ende, within a bow-shoote where his childe suckid, that hee came to murther.

And his hart had made sharp the knife to cut his owne infants throte, (O God how iust thou art) his horse that flew with him fro his former tragedies, as appointed by God to tie him from any moze guilt, and to preserue the infants life, in a plaine ground, where there was scarce a pibble to resist his hast, the horse fell down and M. Cauerley under him; the horse got vp, & breaking from the hold his Maister had to stay him, ranne violently toward

ward the towne, leaving maister Cauerley not able to
firre from thence, where he was soone overtaken by the
pursuit: and indeede ceazde on by those, did both lament
his fall, and pitty his folly. From thence he was carry-
ed to a worshipfull Gentlemans, one Sir John Sauill,
who having heard the tempest of this evill, and know-
ing from what ancessors hee was descended, did be-
waile his late, yet being in the place of iustice, hee was
inforced to aske him the cause that hadde made him so
monstrous: He being like a strumpet, made impudent
by her continuance in sinne, made this answere; I haue
done that Sir I reioyce at, and repent this, that I had
not killed the other; I had brought them to beggery,
and am resolued I could not haue pleased God better,
then by freeing them from it. Oh Sir answered that
worshipfull Knight, you haue done so much, that when
you shall your selfe but thinke vpon the terror of death,
the remembraunce of this wil make you wish you had ne-
ver bene borne. But his heart being so that instant
hardened, was from thence committed to one Maister
Keys house, a Galle but lately built vp in Wakefield,
so at this time the infection of the Plague was violent
in Yorke.

The way to Wakefield from Sir John Sauils, lay
direct by Maister Cauerleys house; against which when
he came, he intreated of the multitude that were his con-
duet, hee might speake with his wife before hee came to
prison, who he heard was aliue, though in great daw-
ger: that libertie was granted him, the distressed Gen-
tle woman when shee saw him, forgot both her owne
wounds, and the death of her two children, and did as
louingly kisse him and tenderly imbrace him as he had
never done her wrong: which strange kindnes so strok
to his heart, remembraunce the misery hee had heaped on
her, that imbracing one another there was so pitti-
full lamentation betwene them, that had flint had eare s,

it would haue melted into water. And could either words
or teares haue perswaded his keepers to haue left him in
her armes. She, M^r stres Cauerley, before the bloud was
washed off from her cloathes, which he plucked out of her
and her infant^s bodyes,) gaue occasion, would haue alte-
red them. But here they were divorced. She vnable to
rise to follow him, and he enforced to leaue her: and by
the way he shold passe from his house the graue cham-
ber of his ancestors, which ha^s never shold see againe,
Then on the threshold lay his two children to take their
farewell with bleeding tonges, which when ha^s beheld
his eyes were scarce able to beare vp their couers, no^t
was he distracted with the sight, but all like a pillar of salt,
and the rememb^rance of their liuely shape, reflected such
a natural heate vpon him, that he was melted into wa-
ter, and had not power to take any farewell of them, but
only in teares.

He was not long before he came to Key^s house: he
was not long there, but the memoire of his children late
in his eyes, so that for the one he repented all the day, and
for the other lamented all the night: no^t can the penes
of the duinest Poet expresse halse the griefe in wordes,
that he conceiuers in heart. For whereas before he tolde
Dr John Saunt, he was glad he had ridde the worlde of
beggars, he now implores his houres in these
wordes; I would I had those beggars, either
to brgge with them, or they to
take heavens almes
for me.

¶ 3. ¶ 3. ¶



The cruell murther of Master Browne in Suffolke.



Within the Countie of Suffolke, neare Eastbridge, at a place called Lawson albie, dwelt an antient Gentleman, one Master Browne, who of late had married a rich widow, one Misters Gardiner. This Master Browne had onely one daughter, which though she was his base childe, he brought her vp in house with him, and was now growne to womans estate. He had also a servant called Peter Golding a seru-
tow onely fortunate in his Masters loue: yet in his ser-
vice he demeaned himselfe so dutifull, & that in trust was
imposed on him, so carefully, that his Master helde him
both a nurse to his age and also the principall guide wher-
by he gouerned his ordinarie affaires, both at home and a-
broad. Upon this settled affection his Master had of
him, which Peter quickely perceiving, began to think
thus with himselfe: that therre were an antient couple,
his Master and Mistersse, of exceeding wealth, no child
but one betwixt them, and by the course of nature, their
yeares tolde him evidently, they were not farre from
their graues, which being so, quoth he to himselfe, how
should I now, being a man borne to no other fortune
but service, and seruice is but a peyne heritage, beeing

alreadye got into my Maisters loue , so bears my selfe to haue all his lande. Out of this consideration Peter sawe no present hope , howe to rayse himselfe to fiftie or sixe hundred poundes a yeare , which his maister was Lord of, but onely by growing into league with his maisters onely daughter, thinking with himselfe shée bearing his onely childe , though as wee call it a by blow , yet behauing her selfe dutitully , and vertuously as the young Gentlewoman did on her part, and hee on the other part humoring him , and satisfying the testie affection which olde men are subiect vnto with content , as hee was well resolued hee coulde, hee perceiued certainly by marrying with her , hee shoule be not onely his maisters sonne, but also his Mai-sters heire.

Whilst Peter intended to strike this stroke for his maisters land, Maister Browne about that time was studiying howe to gratifie Peters diligence and loue, and being troubled with the olde mans disease to take a House for a Mountaine, he confidently perswaded himselfe that Peter in his seruice shewed himselfe moze like a sonne, then a servant ; that wifes loue, daughters loue, nay the diligence of all the whole houshalde beside, made vp together, were nothing to that great care hee consettled to himselfe, Peter had of him, and having no sonne, hee woulde adopt that comfort in him. And honest Peter shoule be the man on whom he woulde set this rest, that hee shoule no longer weare the seruile name of a servant, but by marrying of his onely daughter, bee advanced to the title of a sonne.

Whilst maister Browne was running this chace for Peters preferment , it was Peters chaunce to stuppe, iust in his way , and the inuention beeing fresh in the olde mans memorie , hee presently tolde his minde out

to Peter. It appeares before Peter needed not much
wowing, and in briefe, maister Browne with his owne
handes contracted his onely daughter to Peter, and as-
signid out a portion of lande to him, which he should en-
joy for a day, whilst he himselfe lived, nay promised him
vpon his sonne-like kindnesse which hee made no doubt
of, after his death the inheritance of all he had. Thus was
the ffe he brought into Peters hand by his maister which
he himselfe was setting the net for.

Peter relying vpon this contract, and his maisters
promise, made no great haste of the marriage, but con-
tinued carefull in his busynesse, this Gentlewoman
to whome Peter was contracted (as appeares)
though her father could commande her tongue, he could
not commande her heart, but in the absence of Peter
who was come vp to London to the Exchequer, about
some suites his maister had therer. being glad of the op-
portunity, married her selfe to a Gentleman, and neigh-
bour to her father, one maister Wentworth, a man of good
renoun, some thinke with maister Brownes consent, be-
cause hee was welthy: howsoeuer the same lande was
marked out for Peter, hee gaue maister Wentworth in
marriage with his daughter.

Peter returning from London, and seeing this vn-
expected alteration, made his griefe manifest, (for with-
out question, hee by this tyme did intirely loue the
Gentlewoman,) and so publisht his discontent, that
hee should not onely loose the lande hee might proper-
ly call his, but chiesly his wife, that it appeared to his
maister.

Maister Browne, being a man timorous, (for it is
saide of him, that when he was walking alone he wculd
talk to himselfe, and did ever feare he should be mur-
dered.) To stop all surie, revenge might studie for such a
wzong, called Peter to him, perswaded him to patience,

told him hee wold still continue his god maister, nay wold better any promise he had made vnto him, and as testimonie thereof assured him in present possession thirtie pounds a yeare at a place called Dunnage. Peter thanked his maister, seemed satisfied: and againe, his maister thought all had beene well: but his maister being gone, hee remembred to himselfe what his owne heart best knew, that he loued the daughter, which loue now appeared was lost hee remembred he was contracted to him, yet another had married her, he remembred the land which was assigned as her portion to him, another now tilled, and reapt the fruit on: and all these remembrances maister, you that shoulde haue beene my father, tell me quoth he, that I haue wronck, and you are guiltie of it, which I being thronckly perswaded of in my hart, thirtie pounds a yeare shall not satisfie him that shoulde haue beene heire of ffe hundred, no: faire wordes tempt me from revenge, which haue beene wroncked in my wife, yet I wil seeme calme, shew diligence, and creep againe into your loue, but as a serpent in your bosome, that when I seeme most kind, I will be most subtile, and my revenge most sodaine.

This aforesaid Gentleman maister Browne, and that wldow which he had maried lived in great vnquietnesse together, for two teche olde folkes haue as little agreements when they meeke, as two windes, which Peter taking hold on, wrought himselfe into his miscreckle fauour, yet not so farre, but he kept in as great as before with his maister. And although this man and wfe lived together like diuided households, she with her seruants, he with his, she her diet by her selfe, he the like by his, yet Peter carried himselfe so even towards both parties, that hee had the loue of both: and where their severall seruants could not agrée one with another, but wold expresse their heart-burnings, all yet were

were at league with him. That through the Countrey was a general talke of his commendations, how well hee carryed himselfe, and his maisters loue now appeared moze grounded towardes him then before: his outwardly the like to him; though inwardly otherwise.

Peter living thus (as it was thought consented) ha-
ving the thirtie poundes a yeare his maister gaue
him, beside the benefite of his service. On a day as mi-
stresse Browne, Peter, and a Kinsman of hers, one
Brian Smith, were in the Parlour together, they sel to
conference of the age of man, and the uncertaintie of
mans life, how long this olde man liues, and howe
sone this young man dyes, how this man grawes
rich by nothing, another is borne wealthy, and dies a
begger. Upon which familiar talke, Smith tooke oc-
casion to say to him: Peter, you are in the happy estate
of those, who from nothing but your endeour are
made rich. Whosoever sir I am, answered Peter, I
thank my maister, I would my estate (be it spoken
without ambition) maister Smith, were equall with
yours: With mine, quoth Smith, why my certaintie is
nothing, if mine Aunt should not out liue my Uncle,
when you already are estated into thirtie poundes a
yeare, beside I knowe you are not without a god
stocke of money, which you haue thifstily purchased by
your service: ch, but answered Peter, should my maister
die, (as all creatures liues are in Gods hands) before
your aunt, what were your estate then: why quoth M.
Smith, be it spoken I protest (free from desire of either
of their deathes) Should it happe so, if there be a blisse to
to be endowed with earthly possessions, I were hap-
pie. You say well, quoth Peter, & if you please wee will
haue a wager, what wil you give me to pay ten to one

If my Maister die not before, or by this day nexte
month: D quoth Maister Smith, such an assumption
were unreasonable and vndecent. What a childe are
you said Mistris Browne, is it vndecent to win money?
your Uncle is likely to live, and if you will not, I will.

Smith answered, if you say so Aunt though I neither
desire his death, nor Peters money, yet to satisfie your
Demand, I will venture ten shillings. Peter presently
answered, and before my Mistris heere, I will make it
ten pound, if it prove not so. The ten shillings was gi-
ven by Smith, received by Peter: and on the same
condition Peter sealed Mistris Smith a bond, and Mistris
Browne was the witnesse.

The time was swone apt ouer: yet some two dayes
before the day was expired Mistris Browne and Pe-
ter were in the same parlour alone, where this bond
was sealed, where she straight tooke occasion to say to
Peter, D Peter, your tenne shillings will bee dearely
bought, for your maister is in health. But Peter an-
swered, Mistris the day is not yet come, & you know
death can performe his act vpon a mans life, as swone in
a minute as in a month.

For though before this time he had attempted ma-
ny wayes to marther him, yet performance thereof
was thus long by Gods prouidence prevented: but at
this time the diuell had possessed him, that now was the
tyme to finish his reuenge, and save the payment of his
bond, which his covetous disposition swone harkned
vnto and also perswaded him, that it was so cunning-
ly contrived, that the whole country knowing his ma-
isters loue to him, & his as great to his maister, the act
being done, & the body found, he of all men should bee
least suspected: and indeed, had not God dwelt in hea-
uen, & looked downe vpon the crueltie of the fact, who
never

never sufferer murther to be vntrenged, it was filly
conveyed, and so closely acted, that without a diuine
inspiration it had never bene revealed, nor disco-
vered.

Neare to maister Brownes was a coppice or grove
of his, where Peter knelwe he eucry day at an houre
bld to walke. Peter that day was to ride soorth a towne
to receive money, yet before hee ridde soorth, in this
Coppice hee had cut downe thre Ashen stakes,
and laide them readie for this his tragical purpose,
hee dispatches his busynesse, received the money and
was readie in the Coppice at his maisters comming:
and standeth close whilist his maister passid by him,
with one of those stakes behind him, knockt him on
the head, and there left him taking his horse which he
had tied readie for him, and rode home, and made his
owne tongue the first demaunder for his maister, told
his mistresse hee had bought the thirtie poundes hee
sent him to Dunnage for, she answered him, he was
gone to walk, but none could tel certaintly whither.
This discourse was not long, but some Countrey peo-
ple going that way about their labouring busynesse,
found the dead, and soone brought the tragical newes
to the house of the death of him. None was more rea-
die then Peter to inquire after the murtherer, nor
none seemed halfe so sorrowfull at this disaster as Pe-
ter. Search was made, many whisperings, se-
verall conjectures, but Peter of all men was least sus-
pected.

Neare to the place was bencficed a worthy divine
one maister Morgan, who with the rest of the countrey,
wondring that such a murther should be done, a gen-
tleman quaine so neare his house, nor no tidings of the
murtherer, came to Peter in the self same opinion the

country held of hym, that he loued his maister, and his
 maister hym; and minding to make hym a partie with
 hym, that their two inuentionis might studie how to
 discouer the murtherer, broke with hym thus: Peter,
 thou of all men diddest loue thy maister, and thy ma-
 ister of all men did loue thee best: here he is come
 to his vntimely ende, thou art cut off from thy best
 friend, hast lost a maister, nay, rather a father then a
 Maister, my selfe haue hadde some taste of his loue,
 for which I protest I wil ingage my howers in pray-
 ers to heauen, and practise on earth, to bring out this
 deede darker then night, that Justice may right her
 selfe on so unhumane a wrong: where is I will do
 this Peter for hym, whose bountie to me is as the least
 atomie compared with thine, me thinkes thou shoul-
 dest search for straines of miracle, aboue the heighth
 of imagination, ere thy maisters blood, so good an
 old mans blood, so good a life should be tane away by
 the hand of a murtherer, and not be revenged. Peter
 seemed so moued, and stird so full of sorrowfull teares
 with this, that had he beene accused for the fact, any
 man would haue sworne he had beene no murtherer.
 At last these words broke out; O Maister Morgan,
 my Maister was to me as is the Sunne to man, or
 raine to parched sommer, the life of what I am, & the
 giver of what I haue, were my thoughts so penitra-
 ble to pierce into a meanes, my Maister Abels blood:
 (at that he paused,) and wept againe, should not: O
 should not be shed by a murtherers hand, and yet the
 murtherer live: his words made the good divine ready
 to weepe too. Yet quoth hee, Peter, I new see thou art
 that true man, men thinke thee to be, and thou didst
 loue thy maister as the soule loues the body, whilist the
 body loues the soule. ¶ We two together by the helpe

of God, & God will help vs to find out murtherers, vs
know who killed him. Then tell me Peter quoth he,
thou knowest who of his tenants were at oddes with
him, I am to preach at his funeral, invite them al thither,
at which sermon, if the Caine be thare, I hope
to utter such heauenly sentences, shall make his eyes
stare, & his heart steale his blood out of his treacherous
face. In breife, this was done, a heauenly sermon he
made to terrifie murtherers: & Peter sitting among
the rest, though all wept, yet there appeared no such
signe of guilt in any as in him, for he sat like one had
laine six daies in a grane, no construction could be made
from his words but frenzie, nor from his actions but
distraction. The Preacher perceiving his alteration,
would needs lie with him that night; but ere the mor-
ning he forced his own tongue by the terror which he
pronounced, was in Gods iudgement, to reveale the
treason his hand did, which no heart did suspect.

Peter was apprehended, and so listed by the grau-
tie of Justice, that his Mistresse, Maister Brownes
wife, was found a partie therein, the Sizze comming
on, they were both arraigned, both found guiltie by a
credible Jury, and from the utterance of a grave and
honourable Judge, receiued their scurall sentences,
the one to bee drawne on a hurdle to the place of ex-
ecution, there to be hanged til he were dead, and after,
his body to consume hanging in chaines: the other to
be burnt to ashes: both which were executed in Lent
last. But the morning before Peters execution, this
M. Morgan, happy by the revealing of this murther,
where before he had terrified him with the iudgement
of God, after so wrought for him, (that a thing seldom
or never seen in Englaud,) he procured he might preach
to him a sermon of Gods mercy, before his execution,

In the same Church wher the ferre of Gods power,
 from his tongue , has made him revake this mon-
 strous fact, and thereto did to comfort his soule with the
 joyes of heauen that repenting his treacherous deed,
 he rather desired death then life, and so was ex-
 ecuted, after hung in chaines , and the stake
 wherewith he killed his Daister, han-
 ged at his backe.

F I R T H.



